Metalifers Ores & Metal Scrap etc. and the major items of exports to Sri Lanka during the last three years are Petroleum Crude & Products, Transport Equipments, Primary and Semi-Finished Iron & Steel, Cotton Yarn, Fabrics, Made-up etc, Machinery and Instruments, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals, etc. The details of bilateral trade with Sri Lanka are available in the website of Department of Commerce, www.commerce.nic.in under the heading "information Dissemination—Export-Import Data Bank". The volume of bilateral trade in the future cannot be quantified at this stage.

Indo-Australia Defence Cooperation

2593. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether India and Australia agreed on a framework of cooperation on defence and security issues including keeping sea lane safe;

if so, whether MoU was signed by representatives of both countries in the presence of Indian PM and the visiting Australian PM;

if so, the details of the agreement reached and to what extent both countries have agreed on cooperation on defence and security related issues; and

whether under the MoU, it was decided to set up an Indo-Australian joint venture group to monitor the ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia was signed on 6.3.2006 during the visit of Australian Prime Minister to India. The objective of the MoU is to develop a close and constructive defence relationship between India and Australia which will be instrumental in promoting the common interests of the two countries, including stability of the Asia-Pacific region, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, commitment to combating international terrorism and securing maritime lines of communication. The MoU also envisages setting up of a Joint Working Group on Defence for implementation of its provisions.